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A Dictatorial Sheep-Lawyer.

Judge Humphreys of Hawaii, after his so-called "vindication" from the charges of the Honolulu Bar Association, started for home, breathing vengeance against his adversaries, and proclaiming his purpose to make it hot for the lawyers; to down the missionary party; to depose Governor Dole and have a man of his own selection appointed to his place. He boasted that he had the backing of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox in carrying out this program of vengeance and upheaval.

The last advices from Honolulu show that he has promptly entered upon his vindictive campaign. His first official act was the peremptory discharge of the court stenographer, Daniel H. Case, because of his incidental connection with the Bar Association charges. His newspaper, the Honolulu Republican, is filled day by day with announcements that Governor Dole's official hours are numbered and that he will have "an American" (carpet-bagger) successor.

Now there is no doubt that Humphreys has the power and the disposition to make it very unpleasant for the thirty-seven members of the Association who have preferred charges against him; but as regards his claim to have the backing of President Roosevelt in his raid upon Governor Dole and the missionary party, The Star can say that it is the fabrication of Judge Humphreys' fertile brain without a shadow of foundation.

The Bar Association of Honolulu made the mistake of supposing that a judge appointed by President McKinley would be removed by an Attorney General appointed by President McKinley, except on grave proven charges, much graver than those made or sustained against Humphreys. The Attorney General, no doubt, had his own opinion regarding the fitness of Humphreys, but he could not recommend his removal merely because he was bumptious, conceited, vindictive, intolerant and abusive.

But whatever the Attorney General's opinion may have been, it is a fair presumption that in view of Humphreys' brazen effrontery in claiming the backing of the President and himself in the vindictive pursuit by the judge of the Bar Association, Governor Dole and the missionary party, he is now convinced that Humphreys is utterly unfit for judicial position. It is well known that President McKinley was not proud of Humphreys or of two or three others of his judicial appointments on the Pacific side. The apology for the appointment of men of the Humphreys stamp to judgeships has been that lawyers of ability and standing would take the positions of the unfortunates paid. But this explanation is not quite satisfactory, for while the salaries allowed would not secure the services of the highest order of legal ability, they would at least obtain honorable men of good legal standing and of a fair, equitable, judicial temperament. It was especially desirable, in the mixed state of affairs in Hawaii, that the judges appointed there should be men of this high character, and it is most unfortunate that a vain, quarrelsome, vindictive man like Humphreys should have received the appointment. How unfit that appointment was is shown by the fact that in a few months after this Arizona sheep-lawyer took his place on the bench he was censured almost the entire bar of Honolulu, a body of lawyers of fine ability and high character, most of them his superiors in both these essentials.

Humphreys, though a Mississippi product, is as smart a carpet-bagger as any Yankee adventurer of that breed who went south after the war. How smart he is set forth in the story of his career told boastfully by him to the Attorney General and published afterward in the New York Evening Post. He left Mississippi at the age of twenty to seek his fortune in Arizona, but he found there was no business there for a lawyer of his stamp, "except occasionally to defend a Mexican who had been accused of changing the brand of a steer or stealing a few sheep." So he repacked his carpet-bag and set out for Honolulu for a better opening for money making. On reaching Honolulu with only \$22 in greenbacks to meet the requirement that intending settlers must show \$50 in money, he, by a smart trick in the way of the "green goods" bunco game by placing a wad of confederate bills he had in his carpet-bag between the two ten-dollar greenbacks, fooled the inspectors and walked triumphantly ashore. This, it will be remembered, is his own story of his adventures. There are other reports to the effect that he fled from Arizona to escape trial on serious charges, but doubtless they do injustice to the high-toned judge.

Since then the smart Humphreys has prospered exceedingly. The young adventurer who landed at Honolulu with only \$22 in bank and a carpet-bag full of confederate bills, and whose sole legal training and experience had been in the defense of a few Mexican sheep stealers, has in half a dozen years made a great fortune by speculations in sugar and other smart operations; has reached a judgeship, downed the Bar Association of Honolulu, and now boasts that he has the backing of President Roosevelt and Attorney General Knox in his mission to depose Governor Dole, designate his successor, clean out the missionary party and smash up everybody and everything that stands in the way of his dictatorship. Now as time is money and as money is what Humphreys is after, it would be advisable for him not to spend too many hours with his carter-bag full of confederate bills, for the news that the President had turned out Governor Dole and the missionary party. He will have to wait a very long time for that news—time that utilized by his nimble fingers and smart brain would enable him to add very largely to his present big fortune. He would be rich enough to buy a seat in the United States Senate when the time comes.

Judge, you had better consider this matter. Don't fool with the telephone. Put money in your purse. Buy a senatorship. Of course so shrewd and daring a politician as Castro would not hesitate to pose as a reformer.

New York's Police Commissioner. Mayor-elect Low's choice for the office of police commissioner of Greater New York is being praised on all sides, save by the Tammany people, who, of course, are non-committal. They could not find words to express their real thoughts and silence is better than fruitless criticism. Colonel Furber is a man of experience, having been police commissioner of Brooklyn for a term before the consolidation. His personal integrity is beyond the least suspicion. He is direct and thorough in his administrative methods. In short, he is regarded as the right man for the difficult task of regenerating the police force of the metropolis.

He will find many good men on the force, more perhaps than the public believes today. The difficulty with the police of New York after a Tammany regime has been ended is that the honest men are smothered with the bad reputations of the dishonest ones. If under a Tammany rule a captain shows a disposition to be thorough in the enforcement of the law, without consulting the protection lists, he is forthwith transferred to a precinct where he cannot black the game, or he is given peremptory orders by the under-ground circuit that arrests "don't go" unless the law-breakers have failed to put up their fees. Men on the beats are held to the same restriction, and if the disclosures of the Lexow and Mazet inquiries and of the raids conducted by the Society for the Prevention of Vice are reliable, it is practically impossible for an honest policeman to hold his place on the force under a Tammany rule and to do his full duty without incurring the severe displeasure of his superiors, involving heavy fines. The first step in the reformation of this great agency will doubtless be to dismiss or retire the men who have stood in past years for the Tammany "graft."

There will come the inculcation of new principles in the government of the force, the cutting of the telephone wires leading from headquarters into the pool rooms and disorderly houses and the issuance of positive orders that the law-breakers are to be arrested whenever and wherever caught. Mr. Low has placed in the custody of Colonel Partridge a large share of the responsibility for the success of the reform movement.

The Minority Leadership. The minority in Congress will be very capably led. Mr. Richardson in the House and Mr. Jones of Arkansas in the Senate are both, to use Mr. Gladstone's phrase, old parliamentary hands, familiar with the rules and with their associates, and very alert men of affairs. Both are democrats in the best accepted sense of the word.

Both supported Mr. Bryan for President. The one presided over the Kansas City convention, and the other managed both of Mr. Bryan's campaigns. And yet their relations with those democrats who differ with them on the money question have remained pleasant. There is no good reason why both should not command the loyal support of all their party associates in the session that is about to open.

These two men will meet the emergency in the matter of the tariff particularly well. On that question they are in accord with the democracy's best fighting traditions. They are for a low tariff all along the line. That of course is not obtainable, but in the discussion of the tariff subject, which is inevitable and desirable, they will keep the true democratic standard well advanced.

Mr. Jones, it may be recalled, was a member of the trip whose management of the Wilson tariff bill in the Senate of the Fifty-third Congress commanded so much attention. Mr. Harris of Tennessee and Mr. Vest were his associates. Mr. Harris is dead, and while Mr. Vest is in much better health than for several years past he is hardly robust enough to repeat his vigorous performances of that day, when he was constantly on his feet in the most exciting hours of the running debates. This leaves Mr. Jones the available man for his party at this time in that line, and it is ever may be necessary to keep the party's record straight.

It is but fair also to state that the mutilation of the Wilson bill after it reached the Senate was not the work of Mr. Jones, Mr. Vest, or Mr. Harris. They were held up along with the other low tariff members of that body by Mr. Gorman and his corporate guard of protection democrats. Any changes strictly of their making in the bill would have been in consonance with the platform upon which the victory of 1892 had been achieved. But the democrats had but a bare majority in the Senate, and when Mr. Gorman insisted on protection duties the choice was between yielding to him or abandoning the bill.

The Union Station Site. It will be an achievement for both the District and the Pennsylvania railroad if at the conference to be held next week between Senator McMillan, President Cassatt and Architect Burnham the decision is reached to locate the new union station building north of Massachusetts avenue, as is now proposed. It will be good for the District because this plan will clear one of the great arteries of the city, destined to become one of the handsomest streets in the world, from a permanent incumbrance of the most objectionable kind. It will be profitable for the railroad company because thereby the corporation will save the expense of several hundred feet of costly viaduct construction and will secure a site for the station building far more suitable and susceptible of proper development than is that which is contemplated under the present laws. The reasons for the more northerly location grow more insistent as the park commission's plans are considered, with Massachusetts avenue contemplated as one of the beauty lines of the capital. Use of the C street site would compel the construction of the viaduct entirely across the avenue, involving a tunnel one hundred feet in length to permit transit by this route between the eastern and western sections of the city.

The case is in good hands, for both Senator McMillan and Mr. Burnham are bent upon employing every possible factor for the improvement of the District and the curing of old sores on the surface of the city, while Mr. Cassatt, backed by his acquiescence in the union station plan, has revealed his keen interest in the task of making of Washington the world's most attractive capital.

Mr. Low is doing the best he can to select the right men for his New York appointments. His nature is misleading and it is too much to expect a prize in every package. By failing to invite David B. Hill to address them at their Jacksonian banquet, the Nebraska democrats simply threw away a chance to hear some good advice.

The man with a wealth of undiscovered talent and a brilliant future is now numerously present in Washington, ready to make a start as soon as Congress opens.

Secretary Wilson calls attention to the farmer who is a man whose wealth and influence entitle him to increased consideration in the congressional appropriations.

The Case of Cuba. General Wood, as was to be expected, denies the interview cabled here from Havana in which he was made to urge the prompt annexation of Cuba by the United States as the only solution of the Cuban question. It was put out, he declares, for election purposes. These are General Wood's views:

"Of course there are a number of people in Cuba who desire annexation, but I doubt the possibility of securing a canvass of opinion on the question. The people of Cuba wish to see their flag floating over Morro Castle, even if it were only for a week."

This accords with what is natural in the premises. However much some people may ridicule the Cubans and laugh at their notions and aspirations, the aim of the revolutionists was independence. Call it a bubble, a dream, what you please, the fact is it is to be reckoned with. And it is undoubtedly true, as General Wood asserts,

that if the Cuban flag flies over Morro Castle, the but will be the end of the domination of the Cubans to see it there. He might have added, too, that it will make them all the better American citizens if the Stars and Stripes shall afterwards replace it.

But the question of the hour is reciprocity with Cuba. Cuba desires it and we desire it. But upon what terms? To what extent can we afford to lower the figures on sugar and tobacco, and what shall we get in return? And with whom shall we treat if the matter is pressed immediately? With ourselves as trustees for Cuba? There is no other authority in Cuba today. A Cuban government is in process of formation, but it does not as yet exist, and its complexion when completed is now a problem. It may be offered by very warm friends of the United States, and it may not. If terms of reciprocity are now made, it is the assurance that they will be ratified by the Cuban government when formed? Or may the whole matter be reopened at that time and new terms proposed?

The era of business pure and simple with Cuba has opened. The prosperity of the island is earnestly desired in the United States, and we well understand how much it is in our power to contribute to that. But it is not to be bestowed as a boon. It is to be deserved upon the basis of a business arrangement. We need what Cuba has to sell, and she needs many of the things that we have to sell. It is by no means a case of beggar and almoner, with Cuba in the former and the United States in the latter role.

Nor does there appear good ground, as some seem to find, for charging the Cubans with ingratitude. They are only asking for what they want, and that is not reprehensible either in a people or an individual. Let both sides look at the matter in the light of business, and without reproaches on either side.

No one will feel really sorry that the horses are about to leave Benning. The people who won will be glad to hold on to what they have, and the others—the melancholy majority—will welcome the chance to devote individual attention to the grocery bill.

The rumor that the Prince of Wales would try to lift the America's cup has been denied. The prince has all he can attend to learning how to be king without trying to make a record in sportsmanship.

If the talk of committing millions for the contempt of court continues, we may look forward to a time when the exclusive hotels will have difficulty in competing in the matter of elegance with the jails.

A Chicago financier has attempted to corner the pumpkin market. The farmers who raise their own vegetables will soon be the only people who can be sure of being able to afford them.

It is very fortunate that the rumors of Miss Stone's death have so invariably been followed by denials that their recurrence causes no uneasiness.

When he hears of the enormous salaries paid to violinists, Colonel Bob Taylor is sorry that he ever allowed himself to be lured into politics.

General Kitchener desires more troops and more. He is in danger of becoming known as the Oliver Twist of the South African situation.

The coronation is a comparatively simple affair for the king, but it will be hard on Alfred Austin.

Since the arrival of the automobile, the bicycle-hater is inclined to moderate his vindictive tone.

Terry McGovern must cheer up. All noted actors have their failures now and then.

SHOOTING STARS. Her Comment. "I never gossip," said the woman with the uncompromising eyes. "I never say anything about anybody unless I am sure it can be shown to be true."

"Dear me!" murmured Miss Cayenne. "How utterly relentless!"

A Comparison. "No newspaper office is complete without its printer's devil."

"Yes," answered Mr. Stormington Barnes, "and no theatrical troupe is complete without its angel. And yet you write of elevating the stage!"

The After-Thought. At last the racing days are over. With a repentant thrill I vow I'll never play them more—I wonder if I will.

She Was Pleased. The stepladder was on when young Mrs. Torkins took her place in the grand stand.

"Charley dear!" she exclaimed. "There is no telling where in the world those horses are going next."

"Not unless you are familiar with the course."

"Why don't they run straight ahead?" "Because it is not that kind of a race."

"Oh! I understand. This is one of those crooked races I have read so much about. I am so glad to have a chance to see one."

Strictly Business. "What have you ever done for your country?"

"Sir," said Senator Sorghum. "I am devoting earnest study to that great and weighty subject, reciprocity."

"I don't see what that has to do with my inquiry?"

"My observations on reciprocity up to the present time lead me to decide that before indulging in anxiety about what I may do for my country, it is my privilege to ascertain what my country is going to do for me."

A Lay of the Season. The wind it blows a piping song Of "Christmas pretty soon."

The days in rhythm ring along To "Christmas pretty soon."

The office boy has scrubbed his face. The janitor with courtly grace Responds since you have set the pace. It's "Christmas pretty soon."

Why do we save this courteous cheer For "Christmas pretty soon?" For time is swift. In fact all year Is "Christmas pretty soon."

Twelve months so swiftly speed away! Why not make all the dozen gay, And still be generous and say, "It's Christmas pretty soon."

Philadelphia's New Reform. From the Philadelphia Record. Between the criminal activity on the part of professional politicians and criminal indifference upon the part of prosperous and easy-going citizens the vitality is being gradually squeezed out of free government.

No Joke to Gorman. From the Buffalo Express. It would be a good joke on Arthur P. Gorman of Maryland if the Schley campaign, of which he has been one of the principal promoters, should make Schley's counsel, Isador Rayner, a successful rival to Gorman for the United States senatorship, and it is said that is very likely to happen.

Silver Quiet. From the Indianapolis News. There is no talk at Washington this time about "doing something for silver," which is quite a relief.

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